

TO: Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: Testimony in support of HB-6355

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

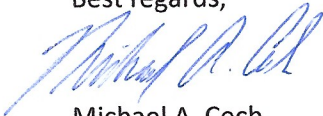
My name is Michael A. Cech and I am a resident of Danbury, a routine voter and a citizen concerned with making our great state even more livable and safe.

House Bill 6355 is before you and would take an important step forward in strengthening our first-in-the-nation Extreme Risk Law.

Currently, police officers can petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from the possession of people who shouldn't have them and pose a risk to themselves or others. This bill would enable family members to also take those steps. As the husband of one of the hero teachers at Sandy Hook, I have become deeply immersed in gun violence issues over the past decade and can say without hesitation that it's family members who most often see the first signs of difficulty in individuals and know that a step ought to be taken and that time is of the essence. Waiting for the engagement of the police department is not always the most efficient means to prevent pending tragedy.

Twelve other states, and the District of Columbia, have already taken this common sense step. I urge you to please bring Connecticut into this admirable club of States.

Best regards,



Michael A. Cech

Danbury, CT